Appl. No. 10/756,903
Amdt. dated August 31, 2006
Reply to Office action of June 7, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants received the Office action dated June 7, 2006, in which the Examiner: 1) objected to the title of invention; and 2) rejected claims 1-24 as anticipated by MacLaren et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,930,496, hereinafter "MacLaren"). With this Response, Applicants amend the title and claims 1, 4, 10, 12 and 15. Based on the amendments and arguments contained herein, Applicants believe all claims to be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner alleges that the title is insufficiently descriptive. While the Examiner has not explained why the title is believed to be insufficiently descriptive and Applicants disagree that the title is insufficiently descriptive, Applicants nonetheless amend the title to add additional descriptiveness.

The Examiner rejected independent claim 1 as anticipated by MacLaren. Applicants amend claim 1 to require a logic device that "determines whether one or more cards are installed in any of the slots and how many cards are installed," and that "causes the bridge to configure the bus segment based on location and number of the one or more cards in the slots." MacLaren does not teach or even suggest all of these claim elements. MacLaren instead teaches a computer system that "detects and determines the types of PCI devices connected to each bus," and that "[o]nce this determination is made, the busses are configured appropriately" (column 5, line 67 through column 6, lines 1-3). Further, MacLaren expressly states that "the exact number of PCI devices connected to a PCI bus is not relevant to the present invention" (column 5, lines 44-45). Thus, MacLaren relies on the types of the cards installed to configure the bus, and not on the location and number of cards installed. Further, no other art of record satisfies the deficiencies of MacLaren. Applicants also amend dependent claim 4 to maintain consistency with the amendments made to claim 1. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 and those claims that depend upon it are allowable over the cited art.

The Examiner further rejected independent claim 10 as anticipated by MacLaren. Applicants amend claim 10 to require "[a] logic device that contains a plurality of gates," wherein "the logic device's gates are further configured to

cause a bridge device to configure a clock frequency of a bus segment based on slot location for the installed cards, and further based on the number of cards installed." MacLaren, as described above, teaches configuring a bus segment based upon the card type, and does not take into account the location or number of cards installed. No other art of record satisfies the deficiencies of MacLaren. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 10 and those claims that depend upon it are allowable over the cited art.

The Examiner additionally rejected independent claim 12 as anticipated by MacLaren. Applicants amend claim 12 to require "[a] bridge device that contains a plurality of gates adapted to configure a bus segment based on a type of a card installed on said bus segment, based on a location of said card on said bus segment, and based on whether other cards are installed at other locations on said bus segment." As already noted, MacLaren teaches configuring a bus based on the types of the cards installed, not based on the location of the cards, or on whether more than one card is installed. Further, no other art of record satisfies the deficiencies of MacLaren. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 12 and those claims that depend upon it are allowable over the cited art.

The Examiner also rejected independent claim 15 as anticipated by MacLaren. Applicants amend claim 15 to require "a bridge" and "means for... causing the bridge to configure the bus segment based on card location and number of cards installed." As noted, MacLaren does not teach or even suggest configuring a bus segment based on card location and number of cards installed, and no other art of record satisfies these deficiencies of MacLaren. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 15 and those claims that depend upon it are allowable over the cited art.
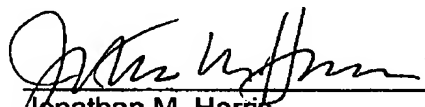
The Examiner also rejected independent claims 18 and 21 as anticipated by MacLaren. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Claim 18 requires "determining location of one or more cards installed on the bus segment," and "configuring the bus segment based on said location." Similarly, claim 21 requires "determining whether a card is located in a first of two slots

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coupled to the bus segment" and "if a card is installed in the first slot, preventing the bus segment from operating at a maximum speed permitted by the bus segment." MacLaren does not teach or even suggest configuring a bus segment based upon the location of the card, relying instead upon a detected card type. Further, no other art of record satisfies the deficiencies of MacLaren. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 18 and those claims that depend upon it, as well as independent claim 21 and those claims that depend upon it, are all allowable over the cited art.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Harris
PTO Reg. No. 44,144
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.
(713) 238-8000 (Phone)
(713) 238-8008 (Fax)
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
Legal Dept., M/S 35
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400